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(54) Title: VIDEO INDEXING PROTOCOL

(57) Abstract

At least one client application (510) creates a message to be transmitted to a receiver (240). The client application transmits the message to an encoder which receives the message and other messages from other client applications. The encoder transforms the composite messages into packets and multiplexes them into a bitstream to be encoded with a video programming signal. The multiplexing is performed according to priorities assigned to the at least one client application and the other applications. The encoder transmits the bitstream to a video encoder to transmit the bitstream with the programming signal to be received by a decoder. The decoder can then decode the information from the video signal and transmit the information to at least one decoder client application. The client applications may include a status application which transmits a status information (e.g. time references) at regular intervals; a program application which transmits descriptive information of the video programming synchronized with the video signal (e.g. program markers and/or program text, such as closed-captions and/or subtitles); and a non-program application.

